

Rochester would become home to the world's fastest computer named "Blue Gene" that would be able to perform 18.2 trillion operations per second. They probably could not have dreamed that 50 years later IBM would become Minnesota's largest information firm, with 5,600 employees in the Rochester and Twin Cities areas. And they probably could not have imagined that the plant they were planning would account for 15 percent of Minnesota's high-tech manufactured exports, in a State that continues to lead the field in technology.

IBM has spent 50 years growing into a world wide corporation which contributes to our economy at an astounding level. In 2005, IBM earned more U.S. patents than any other company for the 13th consecutive year, with 2,941 in 2005. IBM ensures that our Nation stays competitive in the global economy. Rochester has helped lead that wave of innovation.

IBM and its employees and retirees have also been generous supporters of education and nonprofit organizations. Through cash and technology grants of \$3.4 million and more than 185,000 hours of volunteerism in 2005 alone, they have been a great benefit to Minnesota's communities and schools.

With the people of Minnesota, I ask this Chamber to join in celebrating IBM's 50th year of operation in Rochester, MN.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER CITIES

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the cities of Saginaw, MI, and Tokushima, Japan, on the 45th anniversary of their sister city partnership. This is a significant milestone, and I am delighted to recognize these two cities for their many years of dialog and exchange.

In 1961, Saginaw and Tokushima established a relationship that sought to promote cultural awareness between the cities. Since that time, there has been significant interaction between the two cities, including student groups and other delegations traveling between the cities for cultural, educational and other purposes, as well as the exchange of gifts.

In 1971, the Tokushima-Saginaw Friendship Garden was built in Saginaw, and the land adjacent to the garden was subsequently deeded to the city of Tokushima. In 1985, a tea house was also built in Saginaw. Contractors and laborers from both cities were instrumental in its construction of the tea house and the labor costs were equally borne by both Saginaw and Tokushima. Upon its completion, the tea house became one of only 11 in the United States, and the only authentic tea house in the Midwest.

Promoting dialog and interaction between cities in the United States and other countries is a great way for communities to learn, understand and re-

late to other cultures. Through their Sister City Partnership, residents and officials of the cities of Saginaw and Tokushima now have a deeper and more personal appreciation for the traditions of both the United States and Japan. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Saginaw and Tokushima on the 45 years of cultural exchange, and I wish them the best as this relationship continues to develop further.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4411. An act to prevent the use of certain payment instruments, credit cards, and fund transfers for unlawful Internet gambling, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 86. Joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 40. A resolution authorizing the printing and binding of a supplement to, and revised edition of, Senate Procedure.

The message further announced that the bill from the Senate (S. 655) to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention passed with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3637. A bill to require the submittal to Congress of any Presidential Daily Briefing relating to Iraq during the period beginning on January 20, 1997, and ending on March 19, 2003.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4411. An act to prevent the use of certain payment instruments, credit cards, and fund transfers for unlawful Internet gambling, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7458. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Administration's intent to award a contract to McNeil Security, Inc. for screening services at Greater Rochester International Airport in Rochester, New York; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7459. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Legislative Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's category rating system annual report; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7460. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, (5) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7461. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Unilateral Chemical/Biological (CB) Controls on Certain Biological Agents and Toxins; Clarification of Controls on Medical Products Containing Certain Toxins on the Australia Group (AG) Common Control Lists; Additions to the List of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)" (RIN0694-AD62) received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7462. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authorization to Appoint Any Commerce Department Employee to be Appeals Coordinator in Certain Administrative Appeals" (RIN0694-AD78) received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7463. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries in the Western Pacific; Final Rule; Correcting Amendment" (RIN0648-AU21) received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7464. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Framework Adjustment 18 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan" (RIN0648-AT25) received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.